



Pay in Utah

The highest-paid professions in Utah in 2010 were doctors, dentists, lawyers, and engineering managers. The state's lowest paid positions included hosts and hostesses, counter attendants in food service, food preparation workers, dishwashers, and fast-food cooks.

This information is from the annual Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey, which produces estimates of wages for workers in about 600 occupations and nine geographic areas in Utah. Some 4,000 employers are surveyed annually to collect this important information. The highest-paid workers in Utah are in healthcare with medical doctors of different specialties median annual earnings of \$100,000 to \$200,000. Engineering managers, sales engineers, chief executives, pharmacists, and computer and information systems managers all had median annual earnings of \$100,000 to \$130,000.

Hourly rates for the lowest paid included mostly service workers, such as dining room and cafeteria attendants (\$8.36), fast-food cooks (\$8.43), dishwashers (\$8.45), combined food preparation and service workers (\$8.46), and hosts and hostesses (\$8.61). Obviously most workers fall in between the highest and lowest paid. Here are the median hourly wages for some recognizable occupations not in the highest or lowest paid list, but those we can all identify with listed at the right.

Accountants & Auditors	\$27.17
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	18.70
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	14.93
Carpenters	17.78
Cashiers	8.89
Childcare Workers	8.99
Computer Programmers	31.44
Dental Hygienists	32.51
Pharmacists	53.83
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	\$20.72
Registered Nurses	28.41
Retail Salespersons	10.23
Secretaries & Admin. Assistants, except Legal, Medical, & Executive	13.68
Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	13.24
Telemarketers	11.20
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	19.12

Wages vary by geographic area. The pay figures on page 16 are statewide median wages. Wage information is available for nine geographic areas* in Utah. For example, registered nurses made \$26.07 per hour in Cache County compared to \$29.23 per hour in Salt Lake City.

Also, wage levels vary by labor market area. To the right is a listing of the median wages for each of the nine sub-state areas. Many factors are at play that can cause area pay differentials. A primary one is the composition and size of industries in an area. Concentrations of employment—areas that have most of the jobs—will typically have higher median wages with the exceptions of areas where high pay industries have a much larger share of employment than do others. Box Elder County is an example of the latter. Over 30 percent of Box Elder’s employment is concentrated in the high-paying manufacturing sector.

The types or categories of wage data include the inexperienced wage, average wage, median wage, and the middle range of wages for each occupation. Which wage measure should you use? For the newly employed, with little or no experience, you would use the “inexperienced” wage. For someone with experience and training, use the average or median wage. The average is the wage weighted by employment in the occupations. When the wages of all persons in an occupation are ordered from the lowest to highest, the median wage is simply the wage of the middle worker in that list, and the middle range of wages is the wage range of the middle 50 percent of workers.

You can get wage rates two ways. One is by accessing the wage tables available online at <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccwage.do>, select the geographic area you are interested in, click the continue box and then select at the top portion of the page a list of all occupations for the area. These are alphabetical listings of occupations with wages by geographic area. The other method is a customer-driven computer access through the Department of Workforce Services web site’s Utah Economic Data Viewer (UEDV) at <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccwage.do>. Select a geographic area then select a job title you wish, then click continue. ⓘ



**Included here are estimates
of wages for workers in
about 600 occupations
and nine geographic areas.
Some 4,000 employers
are surveyed annually to
collect this information.**



Median Annual Wage by Area in Utah (2010)

STATEWIDE	\$31,290
Salt Lake City MSA (<i>Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele</i>)	\$32,870
Box Elder/Rich Counties	\$32,130
Eastern Utah (<i>Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Uintah, Wasatch</i>)	\$31,730
Ogden-Clearfield MSA (<i>Davis, Morgan, Weber</i>)	\$30,320
Provo-Orem MSA (<i>Juab, Utah</i>)	\$29,780
Central Utah (<i>Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne</i>)	\$28,000
Washington County MSA	\$27,790
Cache County MSA	\$27,620
Southwest (<i>Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane</i>)	\$27,200

*Nine geographical areas:

- Box Elder and Rich Counties
- Central and Western Rural Counties
- Eastern Rural Counties,
- Logan Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
- Ogden-Clearfield MSA
- Provo-Orem MSA
- St. George MSA
- Salt Lake City MSA
- Southwestern Rural Counties